



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

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S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce Announces Changes to Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation Benefits

COLUMBIA—Starting this month, South Carolinians receiving federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) will see a reduction in benefits as a result of recent federal sequestration.

The sequestration imposed automatic, across-the-board spending cuts to the federal budget from March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013. This will not affect claimants who are on the first 20 weeks of state-funded unemployment insurance benefits.

The U.S. Department of Labor requires that EUC benefit payments from March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 be reduced by approximately \$14 million to achieve the required level of savings.

In South Carolina, anyone receiving EUC benefits from March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 will not receive unemployment insurance payments for claim weeks ending May 18, July 13 and August 31. For EUC recipients, this means you will not receive a benefit payment to your direct deposit account or debit card the weeks of:

- May 20
- July 15
- September 2

However, in order to prevent possible delays or penalties for untimely filing, please continue to file during the weeks mentioned above.

The S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) estimates that having three non-paid weeks of EUC benefits will meet the dollar requirement for sequestration. There are approximately 16,000 claimants currently receiving EUC in our state.

Anyone who has claimed EUC within the last four weeks will receive a letter in the mail from DEW with information on the non-paid weeks, and new EUC claimants will be informed when they file their claim.

The reduction in EUC benefits is mandated by federal law and does not provide appeal rights. Nationwide, the EUC program is set to expire in December 2013.